

The National Republican

WASHINGTON, D. C.

A republican newspaper, whose editorial columns are devoted to national, political, and local matters, all subjects being viewed from a broad liberal standpoint and treated independently without regard to favor to persons or factions.

The news columns contain full and accurate reports of all matters at the capital, together with general telegraphic news, special letters from a large corps of correspondents at home and abroad, reports being made without color or bias, the sole aim and object being to give the facts in the most convenient and attractive shape for all classes of readers.

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THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN,

Washington, D. C.

Amusements.

NATIONAL—"Sam'l of Posen."

FOUR—"Princess Ida."

COMIQUE—"Antioch."

THEATRE—"Antioch."

THEATRE—"Antioch."

Auction Sales.

FUTURE DAYS.

By Fitch, Fox & Brown—April 23, assignee's sale of unimproved property on Meridian hill.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1884.

Turn on the light.

Let the light of a congressional investigation be turned on the finances of the district.

Why this excessive anxiety to head off an investigation into the financial affairs of the district?

It might not be out of place at this juncture to remind the police that Langston, the murderer, is still at large.

A snowstorm in April is decidedly unseasonable. The one which visited us yesterday morning swept over a wide area, and in the north was especially severe. We shall have April sunshine and April showers by and by.

THE Pennsylvania democratic state convention yesterday declared that Samuel J. Randall is the choice of the democracy of Pennsylvania for president. The vote of Pennsylvania will not be cast for Mr. Randall or any other democrat.

THE country will be soothed and reassured when it learns that "the democratic party of Pennsylvania, in state convention, declares its unalterable determination to maintain those principles of government as ordained by the federal constitution."

THE district commissioners persist in suppressing facts the taxpayers have a right to know about. Congress should take them in hand and teach them that this is not a despotism, and that they are the servants of the people. They need instruction.

THE district commissioners are making themselves supremely ridiculous. They are becoming childish. A few exhibitions of silly spitefulness such as was witnessed yesterday will move congress to turn them over its knee and apply the slipper of legislative reproof.

"We favor a tariff limited to the necessities of the government economically administered," say the Pennsylvania democrats, but it must be so adjusted as "to encourage productive industries at home and afford just compensation to labor." In other words, they want free trade and protection.

NINETEEN years ago yesterday the great soldier, illustrious statesman, and eminently national citizen now journeying with us compelled the surrender of Lee's army at Appomattox Court House. With his usual modesty he declined the courtesy of a banquet last night tendered by some of his comrades in arms. Let not the rising generation forget the deeds of Grant.

It is understood that a powerful pressure is being brought to bear upon members of the house district committee to stifle the projected investigation into district affairs. Whence comes this pressure and what does it mean? The people will conclude that there must be rottenness and corruption somewhere, or there would not be such a tremendous influence at work to prevent an investigation. By all means let us get at the truth. If the records are clear the district officials should be only too glad to have a congressional certificate to that effect. If the records are not straight the taxpayers should know it.

THE contested election case in the present contest of Craig vs. Shelley, from the fourth Alabama district, must soon be heard and determined by congress. The political student will find some interesting reading in the record containing the testimony in this case. It explains fully how a district with 20,000 majority of republicans is, and has been for nine years past, unrepresented in the congress by any one legally elected, and how a man who did not actually receive over one-third of the votes of his own party

at the election in 1882 obtained the certificate of election over one who had more than 12,000 majority. This district, like Small's, in South Carolina, was set apart by the democrats in 1874, when they redistricted Alabama, as a solid republican district, but the democrats have refused to allow it to be represented by a republican.

Judge Craig, who was chosen at the last election, is in every way entitled to the seat which is wrongfully held by another. The testimony in his case has been on file for over a year, and no evidence of any description has ever been offered by the sitting member. To delay a hearing under such circumstances is to deny the contestant and the people of his district simple justice.

Congress and the National Defense.

The press and the public are beginning to awake to the fact that the statesmen who refuse to appropriate from an ample revenue the money necessary to carry on the reconstruction of the navy are a good deal more in earnest about making campaign capital than providing for the common defense and the general welfare. The need of an efficient naval force is acknowledged by everybody. The ridiculous feebleness of the present establishment, whether considered by itself or with reference to our extensive seacoast and our unprotected cities, is patent not only to ourselves but to the world. This country wants a stronger navy, and wants it now. To refuse the means for its reconstruction is to sacrifice the national interest, and possibly the national safety, for a small party advantage.

It is a question, however, whether this line of action will bring with it a party advantage. A policy of false economy, by which essential measures of national defense are put off, is likely to be a campaign gun whose recoil does more damage than the projectile. For a refusal to accede to a popular demand and to meet a pressing necessity some reason must be given besides the mere exigencies of the party during the coming struggle. The contradictory pretenses upon which inaction is defended will not bear examination, and are unworthy of a party which claims to have at heart the national welfare. When it is said that the money expended in the construction of new vessels in the navy yards will be used for political purposes, and in the same breath that the work will be done by contract for the sole benefit of John Roach, the objections negative each other.

The present administration of the navy department has now been on trial for nearly two years. Its views of naval policy have been expressed with distinctness that leaves no room for doubt or uncertainty. Its acts are not done in a corner, and its methods are known to all men who choose to examine them. Although its views touch questions upon which there is room for difference of opinion, it is safe to say that in general they have received the emphatic endorsement of able critics in the service and out of it. About the integrity and businesslike character of its acts and its methods no question has been or can be raised. It cannot, therefore, be said that a want of administrative capacity or fidelity in the management of the department is made the basis of cutting off the necessary appropriations.

As to the construction of vessels in the navy yards, the department has taken a decided stand. In his last annual report the secretary made the statement that, supposing it to be desirable that the government should possess shops fitted for making necessary repairs, "it is due to truth to declare that the government repair shops under the present system ought not to be intrusted with them." What is true of repairs is all the more strongly true of new construction. All that the yards could do in any case on the hulls of steel plates that were contracted for outside, and even for this work the chief constructor reports that the yard-plant must be increased at considerable cost.

The use of the yards for political purposes being out of the question, there remains the cry about John Roach. We call it a cry advisedly, because it is nothing else. Not a single specific charge or allegation has been made in reference to the action of the navy department through which Mr. Roach obtained his contract, and it is safe to say that none will be made. The whole transaction is as clear and open as daylight can make it. Thirteen shipbuilding firms presented the department with evidence of their ability to do the work. When the proposals for building the cruisers were opened, after every provision of law had been complied with, it was found that eight of these firms had made offers, and the contract for each vessel, in accordance with the law, was awarded to the lowest bidder. The second lowest bidder was the firm of William Cramp & Sons, of Philadelphia, the aggregate of whose bids on all the vessels was \$315,000 more than those of Mr. Roach. The quality of steel to be used in the vessels was prescribed by the law, and as no steel of this quality had ever been made here in large quantities there was an element of uncertainty about its cost. It was in estimating the cost of this material at a lower rate that Mr. Roach underbid his seven competitors, and the result shows that his judgment of the conditions of this new manufacture was superior to theirs. Now that it has been discovered that the steel required can be manufactured at 5 cents a pound instead of 7 cents, as the Cramps and other bidders supposed, they would doubtless be glad to make offers at Mr. Roach's figures. His success is wholly the result of superior knowledge of the business.

In view of these facts, which cannot be controverted, the insinuations and sneers about Mr. Roach's obtaining the contracts are evidently based upon nothing but a desire to throw dust in the eyes of the public and make it believe that a reason exists at this time for sacrificing the interests of the navy and of the country, which depends on the navy for its defense. The feeling of jealousy abroad at the progress of the United States, of which we are daily receiving new evidence, is meantime being focused, while the house of representatives sits still and withholds appropriations. Some day, and that not very far off, it is quite possible that this great country, with its surplus of \$150,000,000, will awake to the fact that it is

about to receive a crushing blow without being prepared to repel and much less to return it. When that day comes there will be a heavy account to be settled by those who now refuse, for no valid reason, to vote the necessary measures for the national defense.

Inexperienced Politicians.

It is greatly to be regretted that the strong political feeling which the pending presidential contest has developed in all parts of the country should have cropped out with so much virulence in the District of Columbia. This is the only inhabited spot within the limits of the United States where no provision is made for ascertaining the popular will upon any question, and when an effort is made to give expression to the preferences of the people for a presidential candidate (for whom they cannot vote) it must be done without the aid of the regularly organized machinery by which primary elections are managed in more highly favored communities. The hastily extemporized methods of choosing delegates and holding conventions are exceedingly defective, and they do not carry with them the moral force that attaches to the established customs, rules, and laws by which regularly organized political parties are governed.

The thing which gives vitality to all political action is wanting—the right of suffrage. In the absence of this essential principle of popular government it is impossible to get any considerable number of the people to take any interest in local primary elections or delegate conventions. The whole business falls into the hands of a few persons, who are at liberty to accomplish the ends which they have in view by whatever means they may choose to adopt. There is no party discipline, nor is there any restraining public opinion. Anything can be done that does not involve a breach of the peace. But few of the intelligent citizens take any interest in the matter, and the battle is fought between rival managers, each of whom enlists as many of the rank and file into his service as he may deem necessary to carry the day.

This is true to a certain extent of all cities, and it is pre-eminently true of Washington, where there is no motive for the masses of the people to take any part in politics. No one could help but notice that the voters at the primary election on Monday evening were mainly colored, and that they constituted but a handful of the whole colored population. Delegates were sent to the convention who, for the most part, were of the same class as the people who voted for them, and when these representatives of contending factions came into sharp collision in the convention it could scarcely be expected that their proceedings would be dignified or orderly. A majority of the delegates were men who had never been trained in the amenities and courtesies of deliberative bodies. Most of them were utterly inexperienced, and not a few were ignorant, rude, and boisterous.

The remedy is not to shut these people out from all participation in political affairs, but to enlarge the sphere of political action. Above all things, they need training in the duties of citizenship, and this they will never get if their experience is to be limited to the holding of a delegate convention every four years under the direction of partisan managers who are looking out for their own interests. Such of them as are ambitious of being politicians should have the opportunity of learning something of the art of politics in a school where the law is supreme, where responsibilities must be met, and everything must be submitted to the final test of public opinion. The right to vote presumes a certain degree of intelligence on the part of the citizen, a certain degree of honesty, courage, and manliness, and, above all, a self-control which respects established forms and rules and bows uncomplainingly to the will of the majority when honestly and legally expressed.

NO REPUBLICANS, white or black, have been killed in Cophah in the last few days, and only three colored men have been killed in this little corner of the county since the election. The widow of Tom Wallace, who was wounded when her husband was murdered by the mob, died a few days since of her wounds, and on her death-bed told who shot her and her husband. All quiet in Cophah now, but look out for November.

A business letter from Hazlehurst, Miss., received at the office of THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN, contains the foregoing paragraph as a postscript. It was written before the murder of R. B. Rials, one of the witnesses who testified before Senator Hoar's investigating committee at New Orleans. The whole truth with regard to this last butchery in Cophah county will not be known for some days, but it may be safely assumed that it was a deliberate assassination, and that Rials was killed because his testimony was distasteful to the "good people" of Hazlehurst. The first dispatches from the south which tell of a political assassination are always careful to state that the homicide grew out of a personal difficulty. It is somewhat singular that the Associated Press agent, who framed the dispatch announcing the killing of Rials, did not add that "the best" people of Cophah county deplore the occurrence.

SEVERAL bushels of very excellent communications, bearing upon every imaginable subject, have been received at this office during the past two or three weeks. In a majority of cases the contributions are carefully prepared, and treat of live topics in an entertaining fashion. They are well worth reading, but in almost every instance the writers appear to labor under the delusion that to be sure of publication their productions must be of sufficient length to make from three-fourths of a column to a column of printed matter. This is an error of judgment. Ten or twenty lines is a good standard length. When contributions go beyond that limit dust and cobwebs are liable to accumulate on them, and they sometimes get lost. We would like to print everything good that is sent in, but it is a physical and mechanical impossibility to compress nine columns of matter into two columns of space and preserve the original text. We are desirous of keeping up a people's department in THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN, and to that end invite contributions, but we would respectfully suggest that writers study and practice the noble art of boiling down.

AMUSEMENTS.

"CAMILLE."

Miss Albina de Mer produced "Camille" yesterday afternoon at the National theater in a manner that produced a deep impression upon her audience and secured for her several enthusiastic recalls before the curtain. Miss de Mer presented a realistic conception of the character which was thoroughly natural, graceful, and easy. The impassioned intensity in a manner that gratified the taste without in the slightest degree offending the judgment. Miss de Mer, while intense was not spasmodic, and her acting throughout had the charm of perfect naturalness. The bad weather prevented the house from being full, but those present were critically appreciative, and highly applauded a very satisfactory rendition of "Camille." The only disparaging criticism we have to offer is upon the mannerism of some of Miss de Mer's gestures. The shrug of her shoulders is often too deep, and her arm movements frequently extended with a vigorous angularity that she would do well to soften into more graceful curves.

"SAM'L OF POSEN."

A large audience greeted "Sam'l of Posen" last night at the National, and Mr. Curtis again met with merited success in his impersonation of the commercial traveler. Next week the "Black Flag," with Edwin Thorne in the cast, will be presented.

RHEA AT FORD'S.

This morning the sale of seats will begin for the Rheas engagement at Ford's opera house next week. A special feature will be made of the Monday matinee by Easter offerings to the patrons of elegant cabinet photographs of the fair Belgian actress, on which occasion she will appear in two new comedies—one in the English language, entitled "A Terrible Woman," and as many of her admirers have been anxious to hear her in French, she will produce Coquelin's French comedy of "Les Jours de Cordillie," as played by her in St. Petersburg at the palace of the czar. Easter night she will appear as "Lara" in Sheridan's comedy, "School for Scandal."

"THE PRINCESS IDA."

The sparkling opera, "Princess Ida," with its charming music and other fascinating features, is nightly attracting large audiences at Ford's opera house. It is among the attractions of the season. There will be the usual Saturday matinee.

The Voice of Business Men.

The first commercial union is essentially a commercial and manufacturing association, and the issues of the coming campaign relate essentially to commerce and manufactures. Mr. Arthur represents New York interests on these questions intelligently and steadfastly. His three years' experience in the executive chair of this fact, and is a guarantee in advance to the business classes that, with his election, their interests would be in safe keeping. That is why the voices of business men are heard everywhere raising above the clamor of the professional politicians for this candidate or that, and saying, "Arthur has done very well; let him stay there four years more." It was the solid, conservative business class, from which this cry comes, which carried New York in 1880, and largely (if the truth of history is to be respected), because Mr. Arthur was on the ticket. The executive chair of this fact, and is a guarantee in advance to the business classes that, with his election, their interests would be in safe keeping. That is why the voices of business men are heard everywhere raising above the clamor of the professional politicians for this candidate or that, and saying, "Arthur has done very well; let him stay there four years more." It was the solid, conservative business class, from which this cry comes, which carried New York in 1880, and largely (if the truth of history is to be respected), because Mr. Arthur was on the ticket.

A Few Facts.

The New York mail paper which is the best and ablest representative of the "independent republicans," who are so conscientiously and intelligently and not dissipatedly and malignantly, is the Hartford Current, which is moved to say that "if President Arthur, as is alleged by the anti-Arthur journals, is using federal machinery to influence the election of delegates to the Chicago convention, it is remarkable that no evidence is furnished to sustain the charge, and that so much presumptive evidence can be found against it." No such evidence is furnished, because there is none. On the other hand, all the resources of "great journalism" cannot conceal two facts, which take away the foundation of all the wild imaginings and perversions of the correspondents to "knife Arthur." The first of these facts was the defeat of the nearest personal friends of the President by John J. O'Brien in a long and earnest struggle in this city. If the President had been seeking success by "machine methods," the O'Brien machine was ready and willing. Fact number two is the open hostility of the collector of the port of New York to the President's candidacy.

Misplaced Benevolence.

A one-legged man stood in a dark doorway on Clark street last evening. He leaned heavily on his crutches, and looked weary and discouraged as he gazed at the passing people. Presently a tall man, with a long beard and a benevolent eye, halted near by and observed him pityingly. "There, my friend, is 25 cents for you," said the tall man, holding out a coin. The one-legged man took it and held it toward the one-legged man with something of a flourish.

"What's it for?" inquired the despondent cripple, in a tone of surprise.

"It will be the alms of a good man, grandly," "Promise me you'll not spend it for drink."

"Kind of you, I'm sure," murmured the weary one-legged man. "Call here in the morning and hand it to the cashier or one of the clerks."

"Why, are you not?" stammered the tall man.

"No, I'm not begging this evening," said the cripple, quietly. "I'm trying to figure out what rent to charge the tenants of this block of buildings next year."

Mistaken Democratic Congressmen.

Some of these people who labor under the impression that if a democrat is to be elected, he must be elected in the house of representatives before congress adjourns.

That is a mistake. The members of the democratic majority in the house of representatives are not charged with the duty of providing the government with a chief executive. They cannot elect in advance the democratic candidate who is to be nominated three months from the present Tuesday. It is true, however, that they can do a good deal in advance toward defeating him.

It is also a mistake to suppose that the task of providing the democratic party with a platform for the national canvass, of formulating its principles, and supplying the ideas which are commonly known as issues, belongs to the democratic congressmen. They can, however, take such course as to render ridiculous any declaration by the convention in favor of a prompt, businesslike, economical, and strictly honest administration of public affairs.

Trading on Borrowed Capital.

In 1860 the "republican party of Virginia," according to Gen. Wickham, consisted of Wickham, Wells & Co. Now it consists of Wickham, Deasendorf & Co. The general is so particular as to the government of his political associates. Apparently the day is not far distant when the Wickham "republican party of Virginia" will be reduced to a single surviving partner (the general), with all assets assigned to the "democratic party of Virginia." Already the general is politically bankrupt, and trading on borrowed capital.

Why He Did Not Succeed.

The trouble with the man who is reported to be that he didn't know how to discriminate. He had been told never to speak of a man as a thief or a murderer. That was actionable, and might be followed by a libel suit. He must always say "alleged thief" or "alleged murderer," as the gentlemanly of the gentlemanly referred to might make appropriate. The reporter said he would remember, and straightway wrote an account of a social gathering, in which he spoke of

one of the parrot ladies in town as the "alleged wife of our alleged respected citizen, Mr. Stanley Groverton." The reporter did not discriminate. That was the reason why he is now out of a job, and the probable cause also of Mr. Stanley Groverton's very excited and early appearance on the morning contemporaneous with the reporter's withdrawal from journalism.

LIVE STOCK INTERESTS.

Report of the Veterinarian of the Department of Agriculture on the Foot and Mouth Disease.

Dr. Salmon, veterinarian of the department of agriculture, has returned to Washington from Kansas and other states, where, by direction of Commissioner Loring, he has been investigating the alleged outbreak of foot and mouth disease, and has made a preliminary report to the commissioner of his investigations. After describing the symptoms of the present disease, the report deals with the characters which distinguish it from that of contagious foot and mouth disease. Of the latter it says: "The foot and mouth disease of Europe is a specific fever, which is usually caused by contagion from other affected animals. In the whole history of America there have been no spontaneous outbreaks of this disease, and in Europe the conviction is growing stronger every year that it has no other cause than contagion. We may accept it, therefore, as a fact that foot and mouth diseases cannot occur in the United States except by the introduction of virus from abroad. The animals affected had been purchased in the States of Kentucky and no foreign animals or people had been upon the farm when the first attacks occurred, and other considerations made it impossible to find means by which a foreign contagion could have been introduced. In regard to the contagiousness of the foot and mouth disease the report says: 'Foot and mouth disease is one of the most active contagious known. The period which elapses between exposure to the virus and the appearance of the first symptoms of disease is, as a rule, but two or three days. A very large proportion of the exposed animals become diseased, and the plague rapidly spreads from farm to farm. As a rule, these characters, with the exception of the introduction of the foot and mouth disease into a herd nearly every animal in that herd shows unmistakable evidences of having contracted it. A very small proportion of the animals resist contagion, but this proportion is much less than with most other contagious diseases, and is so small that it does not affect the rule just mentioned.' The report shows that there was a period of one month between the first and subsequent cases at one place visited. The report also shows that the symptoms of the foot and mouth disease in comparison with those of the present outbreak. The normal appetite, the absence of difficulty in swallowing, the temperature, the mouth symptoms being much less intense, and the foot symptoms, even in the worst cases, being entirely unheeded in the real disease, all taken in connection with the history, the character, other symptoms, and the course of the disease, lead to the conclusion that the disease was not contagious foot and mouth disease. Dr. Salmon states that with but one exception there were typical cases of dry gangrene, and that there is but one cause known to science which is capable of producing the condition of the limbs which he observed in many of the diseased animals in Kansas and Missouri," and that cause is ergot.

The disease led me to examine the food to learn if an unusual quantity of ergot could be found. The result of this examination was to find that at every one of the farms where the diseased cattle were located, hay had been fed which contained a considerable proportion of wild rye ergotized to an extreme degree." The report also says that it is probable that the cold weather had a considerable influence in the production of the disease, and that many cases occurred soon after a severe storm or sleet, and with the appearance of stormy weather new cases ceased to appear, although the same hay was still fed. In conclusion, Dr. Salmon declares that the recent outbreak is therefore attributable to these local conditions and that no single symptoms of contagious foot and mouth disease has been or can be shown.

FOR ARCTIC VOYAGES.

Medical Director Turner suggests the Use of Lactic Acid to Prevent Scurvy.

Medical Director Thomas J. Turner has addressed a letter to Medical Inspector Gunnell, chief of the bureau of medicine and surgery in the navy department. This letter suggests the use of lactic acid in Arctic voyages as a prophylactic against scurvy instead of lemon or lime juice, which is in ordinary use. Dr. Turner recommends its substitution in the diet of Arctic voyagers, and says that for its cheapness, it is now being afforded at a less price gallon for gallon than ordinary vinegar; 2, it requires no artificial mixture to preserve it; 3, the quantity to be used is but a small amount; 4, it is a natural element in food; 5, it is a natural element in food; 6, it is a natural element in food; 7, it is a natural element in food; 8, it is a natural element in food; 9, it is a natural element in food; 10, it is a natural element in food; 11, it is a natural element in food; 12, it is a natural element in food; 13, it is a natural element in food; 14, it is a natural element in food; 15, it is a natural element in food; 16, it is a natural element in food; 17, it is a natural element in food; 18, it is a natural element in food; 19, it is a natural element in food; 20, it is a natural element in food; 21, it is a natural element in food; 22, it is a natural element in food; 23, it is a natural element in food; 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